

NIAGARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

MOTTO: DUCIT AMOR PATRIAE.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE. I. That this organization shall be called the Niagara Historical Society.

2. Its objects are the encouragement of the study of Canadian history and literature, the collection and preservation of Canadian historical relics, the building up of Canadian loyalty and patriotism, and the preservation of all historical landmarks in this vicinity.

3. The officers shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Curator and an Executive Committee in addition of five; five members to form a quorum, the President to be ex-officio member of all committees.

4. The Society shall hold regular meetings of its members and occasional open meetings, when the public shall be invited.

5. Each member shall pay an annual fee of fifty cents, any member whose subscription is unpaid shall not be entitled to vote at the annual meeting.

6. This Society shall affiliate with the Ontario Provincial Historical Society, paying annually thereto the tax of ten cents per capita of membership of Society.

7. This Constitution may be amended by a two thirds vote of membership present at any annual meeting, notice to be handed to the secretary one month previous.

8. Neither politics nor differences in religion shall be discussed at any meeting of the Society,

STANDING ORDERS.

1. The annual celebration shall be held on the seventeenth of September in each year, or as near as possible.

2. The Society shall hold eight regular meetings during the year. These meetings to be held on the second Thursday of each month.

3. The annual meeting to be held on October 13th.

4. Order of business of the annual meeting shall be : Minutes, Roll Call, Correspondence, President's remarks, annual report of Secretary, annual report of Treasurer, Nomination and Election of Officers by ballot, amendments of Constitution, Motions.

5. Order of business at regular meeting of the society shall be : Minutes, Correspondence, Old Business, New Business, Papers Read or Addresses.

6. At all regular meetings of the Society seven shall form a quorum.

7. In the absence of the President and Vice President the members shall elect an Acting President.

8. The President shall preside at all meetings and conduct them after the prescribed order of business, shall call special meetings at the request of five members.

9. The Secretary shall issue all notices of meetings, keep a correct record of meetings held, shall read minutes and present a full report of the year's proceedings at the annual meeting and shall keep all letters received.

10. The Treasurer shall receive, collect, hold and receipt for all fees and money disbursing the same by order of the society.

11. Amendments may be made at any regular meeting, notice to be given at the previous meeting.

OFFICERS 1896, 7.

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| PATRON, | - | - | - | WM. KIRBY, F. R. C. S. |
| PRESIDENT,- | - | - | - | MISS CARNOCHAN. |
| VICE PRESIDENT, | - | - | - | HENRY PAFFARD. |
| SECRETARY, | - | - | - | ALFRED BALL. |
| TREASURER, | - | - | - | MRS. A. SERVOS. |
| CURATOR, | - | - | - | RUSSELL WILKINSON. |

COMMITTEE

REV. J. C. GARRETT.
JAS. B. SECORD.
JOHN D. SERVOS.
W. M. SEYMOUR, B. A.
MRS ASHER.

HON. VICE PRESIDENTS.

WARNER NELLES.
PETER WHITMORE.
MRS. ROE.
CHARLES BALL.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

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| DR. SCADDING | CAPT. CRUIKSHANK. |
| REV. CANON BULL. | CAPT. M. KONKLE. |
| WM. GIBSON, M. P. | R. O. KONKLE. |
| MAJ. HISCOTT, M. P. P. | |

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT,

READ OCTOBER 13TH.

It is with peculiar feelings of gratitude and pleasure that we meet this evening of the day selected for our annual meeting, it being also the anniversary of the victory at Queenston Heights eighty-four years ago. How different our surroundings and circumstances from those of that night of grief and triumph, following a day of bitter contest with alternations of gloom and exultation. Around were the dead, the dying, burning buildings, prisoners, but the chief thought of all, that the beloved commander was no more.

It is much to be regretted that an Historical Society had not been formed here a score of years ago, when pioneers and veterans were alive, who could have told us so much that we have now no means of obtaining.

Our thoughts to-night must be both retrospective and prospective. We speak of what has been done and what we hope to do. In 1892 a small society was formed, chiefly with the view of giving assistance in the Centenary proceedings on July 16th. It is believed only two meetings were held, and one open meeting, at which a paper was read, "Niagara One Hundred Years Ago," which was printed by the Lundy's Lane Historical Society. The officers were, President, Wm. Kirby; Secretary, Dan. Servos; Treasurer, D. McDougall. In November, 1895, a meeting was called by all interested, as it was felt strongly by a few that in this historic spot such a society should exist. I had thought of a very suitable President to propose, but found to my astonishment and dismay that I was selected for the position. It was with feelings of great diffidence that I engaged in the task, for we had been assured that it was useless to try to break down the cold, dead wall of apathy and indifference that we everywhere encountered and as to collecting relics, everything valuable had disappeared, was either destroyed or given away; or that if any remained it would not be given to us. But all these dark prognostications proved false. What have we done? Briefly this: We have a list of over fifty members, have adopted a constitution and bylaws, a motto too, "The Love of Country Guides." We have had interesting meetings, three of them being open to the public at which papers were read. One by Capt. Cruikshank has been printed in pamphlet form with an old engraving. We have had a successful anniversary on the platform representatives of five Historical Societies; indeed the Presidents of four. A poem was read, dedicated to our Society, by Mrs. Curzon. A paper was read by Canon Bull and addresses were made by Miss Fitzgibbon, Capt. Cruikshank, Rev. J. C. Garrett, Rev. P. Spencer, Col. Currie, Major Hiscott. You heard the satisfactory reports of the Secretary and Treasurer, showing a balance in the treasury.

A remarkable and valuable exhibit, for which we were indebted chiefly to the zeal of Mr. John D. Servos, of documents, weapons, old silver flags, Indian relics which was universally commended. We also followed the example of the L. L. Society, in decorating the graves of those who died to save their country, the four to whom a table is placed in St. Mark's church on May 27th, the grand daughter of one of them, Capt. McClelland is among us.

Other encouragements we have had. The Mayor kindly allowed the use of his office for our first meetings. The town council granted the use of the old library room. A large case was presented by Mr. Long for our collection of curios, our large table by Mrs. Servos, a case for weapons by Mr. Jno. D. Servos, chairs by the members and other articles. Contributions have come in rapidly; such valuable historic relics as General Brock's cocked hat, obtained from Mrs. Herbert Ball, through the kindness of Mr. Alfred Ball; and the sword surrendered at the Taking of Fort Niagara by our troops in 1813, from Mr. Alexander Servos; papers printed in Niagara 1794, presented by Mr. C. Ball, and many other articles form the nucleus of what we hope may become an extensive and valuable collection. Our curator, Mr. Wilkinson, has nobly performed his task and deserves our hearty thanks. The work of correctly and neatly labelling and entering 250 articles is no slight one.

In collecting I have taken as my special work the books, papers, pamphlets printed in Niagara in early days, and am happy to say that so far I have been very successful, though much is yet to be done.

And now for what we hope to do. The respected president of the L. L. H. S., Canon Bull, has assured us that the greatest cause of its vitality is its publications, and thus it has earned the right to receive grants from the county and the province, has thus disseminated useful and valuable historic information. It has also honored the names of brave men, has put in order the cemetery, the scene of the battle, has by its persistent efforts obtained from the Dominion Government the erection of the handsome monument to those who fell for their country. Canon Bull, in his address a year ago, advocated the erection in Niagara of a memorial of the landing of the U. E. Loyalists, with the names of the refugees, at the spot on the beach where so many of them landed, and this would be a legitimate work for us. The preservation of our forts and historic spots is another worthy object of our ambition, and we rejoice that already a step has been taken in that direction. That our constitution should be printed is almost a necessity, and we hope some day to print a catalogue of the articles in our collection. The Provincial Historical Association which met this year at Hamilton is to meet at Niagara next year in June, and this, it is hoped, may stir up a greater feeling of interest. Let us unite to give them a hearty welcome. We hope to obtain from the County Council and the Provincial Government a small grant for printing purposes, as we already have other historical documents to print. It may thus be seen that we have much work before us. Let us all then enter on this new year with renewed zeal, each trying to advance the interests of the Society, helping it to make history, to encourage the young, to inspire the old, to develop love of country. Let us sink minor differences and follow our motto, "The Love of Country Guides." The great apostle gives in the same breath the command, "Fear God, Honor the King," and Moses and Paul breathed out the truest patriotism when they wished to perish to save their country. We are not asked now to die for our country, but let us work for her, let us live for her. We feel that as a Society we have much reason for thankfulness for what we have been able to accomplish in less than a year, and should the same zeal, the same hearty support be given in the ensuing year as in the last we shall have no reason to feel ashamed of our record.

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In the house are all sorts of relics : A tea caddy brought from Switzerland with date 1778 belonged to Philip Frey, Surveyor, is now a receptacle for buttons of Butler's Rangers, King's 8th, etc., so dear to the heart of the collector. A shell snuff box with silver cover has the inscription "Token of Gratitude from Wm³ Claus to Mrs. Eliz. Servos, Niagara, 1801." One room is quite full of such historic relics, swords, sashes, immense seals, wallets, etc., enough to stock an ordinary museum. Various articles of value, as silver spoons, a silver teapot, were buried for safety, some of them three times. A document dated Newark 1794, of survey made for Col. John Butler, has the names Ball, Secord and others: the Servos farm had then 394 acres.

In the Servos graveyard on the farm are buried four generations. One inscription reads "Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth Johnson, who died 8th Nov., 1811, aged 104 and recalls the fact that her husband Col. Johnson was buried in the chapel of Fort Niagara 1759, with Gen. Prideaux, and that, though many attempts have been made to discover the site of this chapel where two British officers were buried, hitherto they have been without avail. Elizabeth Servos, her daughter, died 1821, aged 72, and Daniel Servos, husband to above, died March 1808, aged 65. There are tombstones to six of the name of Whitmore : Magdalene, in 1854, must have been the little Magdalene Servos, who saw the murder of her grandfather in 1777 in his own house by Revolutionary soldiers, the little child of three was left with relatives till her father, Captain Daniel Servos, went from Niagara on horseback and brought her home. The late wife of our poet, Wm. Kirby, F.R.S.C., Eliza Whitmore, was her daughter.

One grave is that of an Indian. A black man who had been an old slave, was in the family for many years, called Bob Jupiter.

In St. Mark's record book is an item which relates to this burying ground, running thus, "On the day on which the engagement between Sir Jas. Yeo and Commodore Chauncey took place on the lake, our dear friend Mrs. McNabb was buried in Mr. Servos's burying place, supposed to be the 29th Sept, 1813." (Should be 28th Sept.)